

Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations
Meeting Minutes
December 18, 2015

A meeting of the Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations (the JLC) was held on December 18, 2015, at the American Legion Building, 1708 Commonwealth Ave, Richmond.

Members Present

- Harold Barton, Air Force Association
- Richard Oertel, American Legion
- Richard Mansfield, AMVETS
- Robert Sempek, Association of the United States Army
- Curtis Jennings, Disabled American Veterans
- William Ashton, Fleet Reserve Association
- L.T. Whitmore, Korean War Veterans Association
- Stuart Williams, Military Officers Association of America
- William Barrett, Jr, Military Order of the World Wars
- Dan Dennison, National Association for Uniformed Services
- Glenn Rodriguez, Navy Seabee Veterans of America
- Jon Ostrowski, Non Commissioned Officers Association
- David Sitler, Reserve Officers Association
- Perry Taylor, Roanoke Valley Veterans Council
- Daniel Boyer, Veterans of Foreign Wars
- Charles Montgomery, Vietnam Veterans of America
- Robert Huffman, Virginia Army/Air National Guard Enlistment Association
- Adam Provost, Virginia National Guard Association
- Marie Juliano, Women Marines Association
- Donald Kaiserman, Chairman of the Board of Veterans Services
- Brad Antle, Chairman of the Veterans Services Foundation
- John Newby, Commissioner of the Department of Veterans Services

Members Absent

- Robert Herbert, Legion of Valor
- John Prendergast, Marine Corps League
- James Cuthbertson, Military Order of the Purple Heart

Alternates Present (representing their VSO)

- John Clickener, Marine Corps League

Alternates Present (not representing their VSO)

- John Cooper, AMVETS
- Vic Pena, MOAA
- Chip Moran, NAUS
- George Corbett, Vietnam Veterans of America

Commonwealth of Virginia Officials Present

- Delegate Rich Anderson, Virginia House of Delegates
- Thad Jones, Board of Veterans Services
- Al Pianalto, Office of Delegate Kirk Cox
- Senior Assistant Attorney General Cindy Norwood
- Leslie Frazier, Policy Director, Office of the Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs
- Matt Leary, Department of Motor Vehicle
- CarrieAnn Alford, Department of Veterans Services (DVS)
- Amy Beauchamp, DVS
- Karla Boughey, DVS
- Steven Combs, DVS
- Glendalynn Glover, DVS
- Jon Hatfield, DVS
- Tom Herthel, DVS
- Jack Hilgers, DVS
- Brandi Jancaitis, DVS

Others Present

- Mark Allen, Disabled American Veterans
- Bill Whitt, Fleet Reserve Association
- Jess Fowler

Items included in the Agenda Packet

Agenda (Agenda Item II)

Draft minutes of October 21, 2015 meeting (Agenda Item III)

Reports (Agenda Item V)

- Board of Veterans Services
- Veterans Services Foundation

Summary of introduced budget and JLC initiatives (Agenda Item VI)

- Status of JLC 2016 Initiatives – as of 12/17/15
- Executive Budget Document - VDA and DVS

New Business (Agenda Item VII)

- JLC 2016 Initiatives Summary Sheet and Position Papers
- 2016 Meeting Schedule
- 2016 Work Plan
- JLC2016 Conference at the General Assembly
 - Schedule
 - Coordinating Instructions
 - Guidelines
 - GA Budget/ Legislative Timelines

Items distributed at the meeting

- JLC 2016 Initiative Discussion Notes – prepared by JLC Legislative Officer Rick Oertel
- Handout on Purple Heart Reserved Parking – distributed by Al Pianalto

Opening and Pledge of Allegiance (Agenda Item I)

Chairman Harold “Bart” Barton Jr. called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. He welcomed the members, state officials, and guests, and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chaplain Tim Whitmore delivered an opening prayer.

Roll Call of VSOs, Quorum Determination, Approval of the Agenda, and Introduction of Guests (Agenda Item II)

The roll was called, and 19 of the 22 Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs) represented on the Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations (the JLC) were recorded as being represented (note: the Paralyzed Veterans of America, the 23rd JLC member VSO, did not have an appointed representative as of the meeting date). A quorum was determined. Mr. Don Kaiserman, the Chairman of the Board of Veterans Services (BVS); Mr. Brad Antle, the Chairman of the Veterans Services Foundation (VSF); and Commissioner John Newby of the Department of Veterans Services (DVS), were recorded as present. One member arrived shortly after the start of the meeting, bringing the total number of VSOs represented to 20 of 22.

Mr. Dan Boyer made a **motion, seconded** by Mr. Richard Mansfield to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried **unanimously**. The approved agenda is included as Attachment 1.

State officials and guests were introduced. Their names are recorded above.

Approve October 21, 2015 Meeting Minutes (Agenda Item III)

Mr. Stu Williams made a **motion, seconded** by Mr. Bill Barrett to approve the minutes of the October 21, 2015 meeting as drafted. The **motion** carried **unanimously**.

Opening Remarks (Agenda Item IV)

Chairman Barton spoke about the importance of the appointed officers to the effective functioning of the JLC. He noted that, per the Code, the JLC Chairman serves as an *ex officio* member of several boards. He stated that he is but one person, so he had developed a plan to share the responsibilities among several members of the JLC by asking them to represent the JLC at the meetings of other boards and committees. He asked the members to keep on top of the meeting dates and times for their assigned positions.

He noted that he had attended the BVS meeting last week, at which he presented the JLC Chairman’s Annual Report. He commended Ms. Alford for her hard work in preparing the report together.

Reports (Agenda Item V)

a. Board of Veterans Services

BVS Chairman Don Kaiserman delivered the BVS report to the JLC, included as Attachment 2. He highlighted that the Board of Veteran Services is exploring ways to restructure itself to gain more operational flexibility.

b. Veterans Services Foundation

VSF Chairman Brad Antle delivered the VSF report to the JLC, included as Attachment 3.

He stated that he was pleased to report that as of November 30 the Foundation has received approximately \$303,000 in donations, with about \$285,000 for the VVFS program. That represents great progress in fund raising and shows a 4% increase in revenue over where we were this time last year. In addition V3 has been designated as the recipient of the Dominion Resources charity classic golf tournament for the next five years. This designation will give V3 an annual source of funding for the next five year. This will help to sustaining the momentum that V3 has developed. Chairman Antle also encouraged the members to check out the new VSF website, which makes donating much easier for people to use.

He noted that VSF has launched a five year planning strategic initiative which will kick off in the first quarter of next year. He said he was looking forward to it and that the VSF will make sure that its direction is aligned with that of DVS. He invited the JLC members to attend the e next VSF meeting, which will be held March 30. Chairman Barton stated that Mr. Jim Cuthbertson is the JLC representative to the VSF and that he would make sure that Mr. Cuthbertson receives the meeting date and other information.

Commissioner Newby encouraged the JLC members to visit the new VSF website. He thanked Mr. Jack Hilgers and the VSF for their hard work to get the new website up and running.

Mr. Hilgers spoke about another significant event that has come up recently to benefit V3. Altria has designated V3 as the recipient of a \$100,000 grant.

Overview of Governor McAuliffe's proposed budget, legislation introduced to date, and DVS Update

Mr. Steven Combs gave a brief summary of the steps of the budget process, which include:

- Governor's Introduced Budget
- General Assembly
 - Member amendment requests
 - Committee review and approval
 - House of origin approval
 - Budget conference
 - General Assembly approval
- Governor review
- Final General Assembly approval.

He noted that, if all stays on track, the FY17/18 budget would be adopted in April 2016.

Mr. Combs and Ms. Alford reviewed handouts and delivered a slide presentation that explained where we are today with the budget and the status of the JLC 2016 initiatives. Ms. Alford stated that weekly updates will be sent to the members to keep them informed of the status of JLC initiatives and other veterans bills/budget items throughout the session. The members asked several questions, which were answered by Ms. Alford or Mr. Combs.

Mr. Combs stated that there is a very important group in the General Assembly – the General Assembly Military and Veteran Caucus. He said that the caucus is co-chaired by Delegate Rich Anderson and Senator Bryce Reeves and plays an important role in support of budget and legislation that affect veterans.

Delegate Anderson explained that, during the session, the caucus meets on Wednesday mornings. He stated that the caucus meetings are open and that everyone is welcomed. He said that his Chief of Staff, Ryan Galloway, updates the status of the initiatives and the other items that are being introduced on the behalf of veterans in the current budget. A copy of the current budget items that are significant to his body was passed out and reviewed by Deputy Commissioner Combs. Afterwards he entertained question from the body.

Department of Veterans Services – John L. Newby II, Commissioner

Commissioner Newby covered the following:

- Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC) report on the Department of Veterans Services:
 - Requested by Secretary Harvey and Commissioner Newby;
 - Independent analysis of the agency and its services;
 - Report findings will be helpful in efforts to ensure that DVS has the resources needed to effectively and efficiently serve Virginia veterans;
 - Report observations:
 - Communications and outreach: high priority area to ensure that veterans are aware of DVS programs and services. Commissioner Newby noted that this has been a top priority since he took office, and that the Governor's budget included additional resources to strengthen this area.
 - Benefits: the report acknowledged the significant progress made in the last year, including being the first state to switch to all electronic claims filing. Commissioner Newby praised Tom Herthel and his team for their accomplishments and all present who have supported this process.
 - Virginia Transition Assistance Program (VTAP): the report presented the option of doing away with the program or investing the proper resources to do it right. Commissioner Newby noted that, at present, VTAP has only one person to assist 10,000+ veterans who exit the military each year. The JLARC recommendation is positive supports the additional VTAP resources included in the introduced budget.
 - Virginia Values Veterans (V3): observations regarding program tracking, metrics, and the value added by the V3 program. The Commissioner pointed to the V3 program's successes (400+ employers that are hiring veterans) and that the private sector does not invest time or money in endeavors that are not of value to the bottom line. The real value of V3 is the acknowledgement of the Virginia companies that are employing veterans because it is the right business decision.

- Care Center, Cemeteries, and Virginia War Memorial: the report recognized that these are well run, efficient operations that well serve Virginia veterans, families, and citizens.
- Virginia Veteran and Family Support: the report covers VVFS services, structure, policies, and staff training/qualification, and whether a clinical level of care should be the standard. The Commissioner reviewed the history of VVFS, its mission, how it delivers services, and the critical nature of what VVFS does. He noted that the difference of opinion between DVS and JLARC in several key areas of the report.

Commissioner Newby answered several questions asked by the members.

Lunch was served at 11:30. The meeting resumed at 12:00 p.m.

New Business (Agenda Item VII)

- a. **Revisions to JLC 2016 Position Papers**: JLC Legislative Officer Rick Oertel led the Council in a detailed review of each of the JLC 2016 Initiatives. Changes to individual papers with discussed and approved by the unanimous consent of the members. Ms. Alford and Mr. Combs were tasked by the Council to make the necessary revisions to the papers and to distribute to the members after review/approval by JLC leadership.
- b. **Prioritization of JLC 2016 Initiatives**: Mr. Oertel led the Council in re-prioritizing the JLC 2016 Initiatives. A summary of the re-prioritized initiatives, as agreed to by the Council by unanimous consent, is included as Attachment 4.
- c. **Approve 2016 Meeting Schedule**. Mr. Oertel made a **motion, seconded** by Mr. Adam Provost, to adopt the 2016 Meeting Schedule as presented. The motion carried **unanimously**. The approved meeting schedule is at Attachment 5.
- d. **Approve 2016 Work Plan**. Mr. Boyer made a **motion, seconded** by Mr. Bill Barrett, to adopt the 2016 Work Plan as presented. The motion carried **unanimously**. The approved meeting schedule is at Attachment 6.
- e. **Prepare for JLC 2016 Conference at the General Assembly**: Mr. Jack Hilgers and Ms. Alford, conference coordinators, reviewed the conference schedule, coordinating instructions, and guidelines.

Public Comment (Agenda Item VIII)

Mr. Al Pianalto distributed an information paper on how businesses or communities could establish special designated parking spots for Purple Heart recipients. He encouraged the members to share the information with their VSOs.

Chairman Barton thanked Mr. Pianalto for his comments.

Dr. Jess Fowler, PhD addressed the Council regarding a proposed change regarding eligibility to be enshrined on the Wall of Honor at the Virginia War Memorial. Dr. Fowler said that his proposed change would add the names of those Virginians who were killed in training while preparing to deploy to a combat area, if they had previously served in a designated combat area. He added that only those who had previously served in a combat area and who were preparing to redeploy to a combat area would be eligible under the proposed change in eligibility. Dr. Fowler noted that he had presented the proposed change to the Virginia War Memorial Board at the Board's November 6, 2015 meeting. He asked the Council members to support his proposal.

Ms. Alford noted that the Virginia War Memorial Board, by unanimous vote of the members, recommended to the Department of Veterans Services that there be no change to the current eligibility requirements.

Chairman Barton thanked Dr. Fowler for his presentation.

Closing Remarks (Agenda Item IX)

Chairman Barton reminded the members of the upcoming conference and next meeting.

Adjournment (Agenda Item X)

There being no further business before this council, the meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Attachment 1

**Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations
American Legion Building
1708 Commonwealth Avenue, Richmond
October 21, 2015
10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**

AGENDA

- I. Opening and Pledge of Allegiance – *Harold Barton, JLC Chairman* (10:00 – 10:05)
- II. Roll call of VSOs, quorum determination, approval of agenda and introduction of guests – *Harold Barton, JLC Chairman* (10:05 – 10:10)
- III. Approve July 15, 2015 meeting minutes – *Harold Barton, JLC Chairman* (10:10 – 10:15)
- IV. Department of Veterans Services presentations (10:15 – 11:00): *Commissioner John Newby and DVS Directors*
- V. Reports (11:00 – 11:15)
 - a. Board of Veterans Services – *Don Kaiserman, BVS Chairman*
 - b. Veterans Services Foundation – *Brad Antle, VSF Chairman*
 - c. Department of Veterans Services – *John Newby, Commissioner*
- VI. New business (11:15 – 12:15) – *Harold Barton, JLC Chairman*
 - a. SVDA Priorities
 - b. Approve JLC Appointed Officers for 2015-2016
 - c. Other new business and open discussion
- VII. Public comment period (12:15 – 12:25)
- VIII. Closing remarks and prepare for next meeting – *Harold Barton, JLC Chairman* (12:25 – 12:30)
- IX. Adjourn (12:30)

Attachment 2

BOARD OF VETERANS SERVICES REPORT

December 18, 2015

The Board of Veterans Services (BVS) met on December 9, 2015. At the meeting, the Board had a lengthy and productive discussion, led by board member Jim Icenhour, concerning the structure of the Board of Veterans Services and how it can best organize itself to fulfill its Code-mandated mission.

At present, the Code requires that the Board be organized into three standing committees – for benefits, care centers, and cemeteries. The Board will request that the Code be amended to permit the Board to organize itself in such a manner as to fulfill its Code-mandated missions. We will keep the JLC up-to-date as we move through the process.

The BVS is made up of fourteen citizen members, five legislators, and three *ex officio* members. Board members are in regular contact with the Department of Veterans Services to provide policy input on key operational issues.

The 2016 schedule of BVS meeting dates and locations is still being finalized.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald Kaiserman
Chairman

Attachment 3

VETERANS SERVICES FOUNDATION REPORT

December 18, 2015

The Veterans Services Foundation (VSF) Board of Trustees has held two meetings since the last BVS meeting. They were held on August 5 and November 4, 2015 with a quorum present at each. The following events occurred and actions taken at the meeting, in addition to the usual reports and updates on VWWP and V3 plus briefings on the Benefits Program and Care Centers. VWWP has changed its name to Virginia Veteran and Family Support (VVFS) as of 1 October 2015, but its services remain the same.

- (1) Reviewed Foundation income, expenses, and fundraising events conducted during FY15;
- (2) Approved the 4th Quarter FY15 VSF and 1st Quarter FY16 Financial Reports;
- (3) Approved VSF FY16 Goals and Objectives;
- (4) Approved proposed legislation for the FY16 General Assembly;
- (5) Approved a minor change to the Trustees Bylaws;
- (6) Approved changes to VSF-DVS Joint Policies #3 and #4;
- (7) Approved funding for VSF Website restructuring;
- (8) Elected a new VSF Chair Brad Antle, 1st Vice Chair Rich Schollmann, and 2nd Vice Chair Al Pianalto;
- (9) Approved Pat Webb and Frank Finelli as Development Committee Chair and Vice Chair; and
- (10) Approved Frank Driscoll and Matice Wright as Finance Committee Chair and Vice Chair;
- (11) Approved Frank Wickersham as a Development Committee Advisor.

As of 30 November, the Foundation has received donations during FY16 of about \$303,000 with about \$285,000 for VWWP/VVFS. This is about a 40% increase in revenue over the amount brought in to date in FY15 with an about. 20% increase in individual donors for the same period without donor solicitation. In addition, V3 has been designated as the recipient of the Dominion Resources charity classic golf tournament for the next five years. As always, the Foundation extends its sincere congratulations to the outstanding outreach of all DVS activities to realize this significant revenue level. It could not have been accomplished without the dedication of all DVS personnel.

With the great help of the DVS Communications Director, VSF has restructured its website. The new site can be viewed at www.vvsf.org.

The Board has three new Trustees appointed by the Governor in September to take the places of Tom Gordy, Jack Kavanaugh, and Frank Wickersham. They are Ms. Nicole Carry, Dr. Jack Lanier, and Mr. Tom Mulrine. They all are veterans and well qualified to serve as Trustees.

The VSF has launched a five year strategic planning initiative that is being led by the Chair of the Development Committee. There will be a strategic planning retreat scheduled within the next three months.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for March 30, 2016 at the Virginia War Memorial. Items for the next meeting may include: (1) approval of the Second Quarter FY16 Financial Statement; (2) approval of FY16 Budget Adjustments, if any; (3) approval of the review and updates of VSF-DVS Joint Policies, if any; (4) review VSF FY15 fundraising program and projections; (5) and discussion of five year plan.

Respectfully submitted,

Brad Antle
VSF Chairman

VSF Milestones FY16-17*

July 1, 2016

Board Officers assume duties

August 3 meeting (TBD)**

Review FY15 Goals and Objectives

Consider Goals and Objectives for FY16

Approve 4th Quarter FY15 Financial Statement

Approve review of VSF-DVS Policies, as required

Board Chair appoints Committee Chairs/Vice Chairs

Approval of Committee Chair/Vice Chair appointments

Approve tentative dates and locations (if available for 2016)

November 2 meeting (TBD)**

Approve 1st Quarter FY16 Financial Statement

Approve budget adjustments, if any

Approve review of VSF-DVS Policies, if needed

Approve Bylaws and MOU changes, if any

January 14, 2016

JLC Conference at the General Assembly

March 14, 2016

Request Budget input for FY17 due April 15

March 30 meeting (Virginia War Memorial)

Approve 2nd Quarter FY16 Financial Statement

Approve budget adjustments, if any

Approve review of VSF-DVS Policies, if needed

Confirm dates and locations of 2016 Board meetings

Elect a nominating committee

April 4

Nominating Committee put out call for candidates for officers' positions

May 4 meeting (Virginia War Memorial)***

Approve 3rd Quarter FY16 Financial Statement

Approve budget adjustments, if any

Approve FY17 budget

Elect officers for FY17

*At all meetings, as appropriate, receive VWWP, V3, and other DVS activity updates.

**In odd numbered years review all VSF-DVS Policies, Bylaws, and MOU

***In Odd numbered years, receive report on APA audit, if available

Attachment 4

Summary of the 2016 Initiatives As revised/re-prioritized December 18, 2015

<i>Initiative</i>	<i>Recommendation</i>
JLC 2016-01 <i>Veterans Care Centers</i>	That the Governor and General Assembly continue state support for the Hampton Roads and Northern Virginia veterans care center construction projects by appropriating an additional \$29.3 million in state funding to complete the construction of both centers.
JLC 2016-02 <i>DVS Benefits Services</i>	That the Governor and General Assembly 1) increase the Benefits Services division's budget by \$903,000 (GF) in FY17 and \$1,324,000 (GF) in FY18, and 2) increase staffing levels by seven positions in FY17 and nine positions in FY18, to complete the three-year plan to strengthen and expand the DVS Benefits Services division.
JLC 2016-03 <i>Virginia Veteran and Family Support Services</i>	That the Governor and General Assembly appropriate an additional \$2,147,591 (GF) and authorize 39 new positions for VVFS in FY17 to convert VVFS to an all-state employee workforce. FY18 funding should be \$98,831 (GF) above FY17 levels.
JLC 2016-04 <i>Virginia War Memorial</i>	That the Governor and General Assembly appropriate an additional \$509,985 (GF) in FY17 and \$800,235 (GF) in FY18, and authorize three additional positions, to ensure that the Virginia War Memorial has the resources necessary to accomplish its dual mission of honor and education.
JLC 2016-05 <i>Virginia Taxes and Veteran Service Organizations</i>	That the Governor and General Assembly pass legislation to extend to 501(c)(19) Veterans Service Organizations the exemptions provided for 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations.
JLC 2016-06 <i>Bridge to Health Care Careers for Former Military Medics and Corpsmen</i>	That the Governor and General Assembly authorize three positions and appropriate \$400,000 (GF) in FY17, continue at these levels in FY18, and pass the legislation necessary to assist former military medics and corpsmen in continuing to use their skills learned in the service and to place them on a path to careers in Virginia health care industry.
JLC 2016-07 <i>Guard Income Tax Subtraction</i>	That the Governor and General Assembly increase the state income tax subtraction level for members of the Virginia National Guard from \$3,000 to \$5,000 per year.
JLC 2016-08 <i>VCCS Veteran Advisors and Resource Centers</i>	That the Governor and General Assembly appropriate the funding necessary to establish dedicated Veteran Advisors and Resource Centers on Virginia Community College System campuses to coordinate and centralize campus efforts to aid veterans in transitioning from military service and achieving success on campus.

JLC 2016-09 <i>Veterans Dockets</i>	That the Governor and General Assembly take the legislative and/or budget actions necessary to allow local courts to establish a Veterans Docket under the supervision of the Virginia Supreme Court.
JLC 2016-10 <i>In-state tuition for all members of the Reserve Components</i>	That the Governor and the General Assembly change the eligibility for in-state tuition to include all members of the Virginia National Guard and the Reserve components, thus recognizing their service to the Commonwealth and treating them equally to the active components and veterans
JLC 2016-11 <i>VMSDEP</i>	That the Governor and General Assembly <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. When determining eligibility for higher education benefits under the Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Program (VMSDEP), remove the requirement that a veteran's disability rating be combat related. Instead, a permanent disability rating of at least 90%, plus satisfaction of the other requirements currently in the Code, would qualify a veteran's spouse or child for education benefits. b. Evaluate whether funding from other programs could potentially offset the increased cost to the VMSDEP.
JLC 2016-12 <i>Electronic Ballot Return</i>	That the Governor and General Assembly promote the development, approval, and budgeting of secure procedures to permit the electronic return of absentee ballot by overseas uniformed military voters.

Attachment 5

2016 Meeting Schedule

As adopted December 18, 2015

Day/Date	Time	Type of Meeting	Location
Thursday, January 14	8 a.m.	JLC Conference at the General Assembly	GAB (morning), CAP (afternoon)
Friday, April 22	10 a.m.	Regular Business Meeting	ALB
Wednesday, July 13	10 a.m.	Regular Business Meeting	ALB
Wednesday, October 12	10 a.m.	Regular Business Meeting	ALB
Wednesday, December 21*	10 a.m.	Regular Business Meeting	ALB
Thursday, January 12, 2017	9 a.m.	JLC Conference at the General Assembly	GAB (morning), CAP (afternoon)

* Date is tentative. May be rescheduled depending on the release date of the Governor's introduced budget

Key to locations

GAB = General Assembly Building, SE corner of Broad and 9th Streets, Richmond

CAP = State Capitol Building, 1000 Bank St, Richmond

ALB = American Legion Building, 1708 Commonwealth Ave, Richmond

Attachment 6

JLC 2016 Work Plan

As adopted December 18, 2015

January 14 Conference at the General Assembly:

- Advocate for 2016 JLC Initiatives
- Promote role of JLC
- Meet with elected officials and state leaders

April 22 Meeting:

- Review 2016 General Assembly actions, including: legislation, budget and update on the April 20th Reconvened Session
- Look ahead to 2017 General Assembly: conduct an initial review and discussion of potential 2017 JLC Initiatives; and review of the current status of each 2016 JLC initiatives not enacted
- Report of the Constitution and By-Laws Review Committee (annual review)
- Candidates for Chair and Vice Chair declare their intention to run
- Appoint Nominating Committee

June 1:

- JLC members submit potential 2017 JLC Initiatives for discussion at July 13 meeting. It is requested that papers be in JLC format.
- JLC Chairman reviews proposals submitted to date and passes to Legislative Committee

June 1 – June 29

- Legislative Committee reviews proposals received to date and provides feedback/guidance to drafter.
- Legislative Committee works on proposed prioritization

June 29:

- JLC Chairman distributes potential 2017 JLC Initiatives to JLC members for review
- JLC members share potential 2017 JLC Initiatives with their VSO leadership and others in their VSO to solicit feedback, comment, additional ideas, etc.

July 13 Meeting:

- Review and discuss all proposed 2017 JLC Initiatives
- Adopt and prioritize 2017 JLC Initiatives
- Appoint JLC sponsors
- Elect Chair and Vice Chair

NLT August 15:

- Sponsors of each approved 2017 JLC Initiative prepare first draft of JLC Position Paper.

- DVS Policy Director works with sponsors on technical review.
- JLC Legislative Officer reviews and approves position papers.
- JLC Chairman reviews and approves positions papers.
- Position papers distributed to JLC members for distribution to their VSO leadership and others in their VSO to solicit feedback, comment, additional ideas, etc.
- Position papers sent to DVS for distribution to Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs and Governor. Post position papers on JLC website

NLT September 15:

- JLC Chair appoints JLC Appointed Officers (who will serve in an acting capacity until approved by the Council at the October 12 meeting)

October 12 Meeting:

- Prepare for meetings with General Assembly members
- Approve JLC Appointed Officers for 2016-2017

November & December:

- Meet with Executive and Legislative branch members
- Hold legislative forums

December 21 Meeting:

Could be rescheduled depending on the release date of the Governor's introduced budget

- Review Governor's Proposed Budget
- Report on General Assembly Patrons
- Plan for 2017 Conference at the General Assembly
- Adopt 2017 Meeting Schedule
- Adopt 2017 Action Plan